

MINUTES

Town of North
March 13, 2006
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Drew, Lane, Gleaton and Binyard. Also in attendance were Chief Fallaw and Town Clerk, Beth Kincaid.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed citizens and special guests, Commissioner John Hardy, SCDOT, Representative Harry Ott and Senator Brad Hutto.

The Minutes from the February 13, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Presentation:

Commissioner Hardy, joined by Representative Ott and Senator Hutto presented the Town with a \$200,000 grant check for the Town's planned downtown beautification/streetscape project. Commissioner Hardy stated it was a pleasure to provide this opportunity to the Town and he is looking forward to seeing the completed project. Senator Hutto remarked that the Town was fortunate to have Commissioner Hardy and that he makes lots of hard decisions regarding the distribution of grant monies for town projects. He thanked Commissioner Hardy for choosing the North streetscape project as a grant recipient. Representative Ott stated Commissioner Hardy is a real friend to small town South Carolina, and thanked the Commissioner for all he has done for the smaller cities. Mayor Jeffcoat thanked Commissioner Hardy, Representative Ott and Senator Hutto on behalf of the citizens of North.

Mayor Jeffcoat recognized former Town Administrator Russell Ott and expressed his appreciation for his hard work on behalf of the Town. He presented Ott with a beautiful South Carolina print depicting the state symbols. Ott thanked Council for the print and stated his appreciation for North and its citizens. He said, "since I left, I think I have developed an even greater appreciation."

Lynn Hall gave a presentation on the Morgan Lane Elderly Housing development. She invited citizens to visit Morgan Lane and informed the audience of the criteria for consideration in living in the development. She said the office is open on Wednesday and Thursday of each week. Ms. Lane commented she had toured Morgan Lane and stated that the apartments are beautiful and the development is an asset to the Town.

Mr. Jeffcoat acknowledged Rena Copeland from Nivens and Nivens Engineering, and expressed thanks to her on behalf of Council and the citizens for her tremendous effort in securing the streetscape grant for the Town.

Jamie Steele reviewed a construction sequence plan for the Hwy 321 Widening Project. He distributed and reviewed a construction sequence handout. He said the plan is to work through until the job is complete. He invited anyone who had questions or concerns to contact him.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat gave the report for February. There 13 cut-offs/cut-back-on; 4 new accounts; 11 meter checks; 2 water leaks; 2 sewer problems and 1 garbage can drop off. 140 late fees were added for the month, an increase from last month. Soda ash treatment now being used and has resulted in less problems. DHEC completed the sanitary survey on February 16, 2006, and we are waiting on results. Jeffcoat thanked Dale Weatherford for the great job he has done.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw gave the police report. There were 21 Group A offenses, and one of these was an attempted robbery of a newspaper delivery man. The police were not notified until two hours after-the-fact so there was a lot of time lost and not much the police could do. Fallaw advised citizens to notify police as soon as something happens. There were no Group B offenses; 78 Group C offenses, which included 67 assists to other agencies. A Check Point was conducted on February 24 with the Norway Police Department, Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department, Lexington Sheriff's Department and Lexington County Fire Service. There were several arrests and confiscated cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana. A suspect was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute

and carrying a concealed weapon. He is a convicted felon and therefore will probably face federal charges. Two vehicles were also confiscated during this arrest. Due to the street value of the drugs, North Police will receive approximately \$2,000 in drug funds in addition to the value of the vehicles seized along with another vehicle seized in during a prior check point. Two officers are being sent for reserve training. The officer's are Patrick O'Neal Thompson and Spencer Combs. After completing 140 hours training with Lexington Sheriff's Department, they will be eligible to work as North Reserve officers. The Police Department worked 617 hours during February and 35.5 reserve hours.

A citizen emphasized the need for houses to display house numbers.

Old Business:

Mayor Jeffcoat presented the financial report for February, 2006. Beginning balance \$22,857.64; total income \$85,893.47; expenditures \$55,511.54; ending balance was \$58,773.67. Tax income has helped the general fund income.

New Business:

- Jeffcoat reported the Community of Character Trait for March is "Cooperation." Jeffcoat commented that in his book, this is one of the top character traits. Jeffcoat reported he has been asked about serving on the Board of Directors for Community Character Traits.
- Harriett Lane is a 2006 graduate of the Municipal Association of Elected Officials, and was honored at the Municipal Association conference held in February in Columbia. Mr. Jeffcoat and Mrs. Kincaid also attended the conference. Mrs. Lane commented that completing this program was very important to her. She explained it takes two years to complete the program, which requires attending classes on site, participating in web classes, and attending some programs at USC Aiken.
- Mr. Jeffcoat announced that the Municipal Association has proclaimed Sunshine Week will be observed March 12-18, 2006. The purpose is to focus on the importance of open government meetings and the Freedom of Information Act. Jeffcoat invited anyone who is interested in viewing public documents to come to the Town Hall.
- Mr. Jeffcoat reported that another signer was needed on the checking account. He recommended Paul Drew serve as a signer. Mrs. Lane made the motion that Mr. Drew be designated as a signer on the checking account, Mrs. Binyard seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.
- Mr. Jeffcoat announced the Great American Clean Up program runs from March 1 - May 31, 2006, and asked Mr. Drew to head up the clean up for North. Mr. Drew agreed and stated he would announce a clean up schedule at a later date.

A citizen asked whether a new Town Administrator would be hired. Mr. Jeffcoat stated consideration is being given to different options.

Another citizen reminded everyone of the importance of displaying their 911 address on their home. This is critical for emergency personnel responding to calls. The numbers can be purchased at any hardware or home improvement store and are easy for the homeowner to put on their home.

Public Comments:

Mr. Jeffcoat called for any public comments. There were none.

There being no further business, Mr. Jeffcoat asked Reverend Wright to close the meeting in prayer and Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next Town Council meeting will be held Monday, April 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kincaid

APPROVED - March 13, 2006 Minutes

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Rose Binyard: _____

Harriet Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____